

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

# DESIGN ENHANCEMENTS



Volume IV, Summer Issue: June – August 2002  
A Quarterly Newsletter by the Public Art & Design Enhancement Program  
Public Works, City Architect's Office / P.O. Box 839966 / S.A., TX 78283-3966

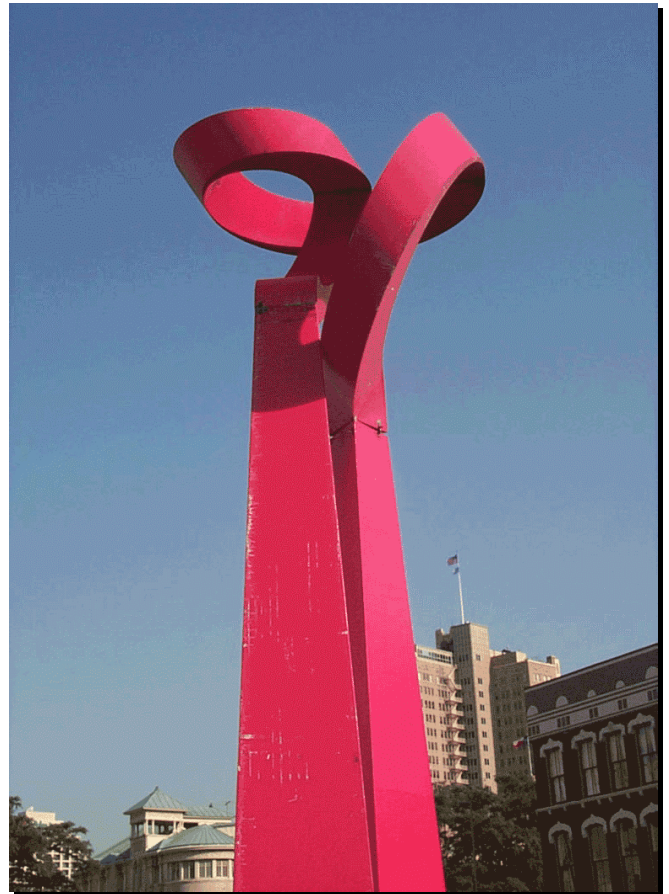
## *San Antonio has Artist's 'Torch'*

The Asociacion de Empresarios Mexicanos en San Antonio, along with the Mexican General Consulate, the Instituto Cultural Mexicano and other leaders from the Mexican community living in San Antonio have bestowed upon the City of San Antonio a monumental sculptural created by renowned sculptor Sebastian. The gift of state donation is intended to signify the longstanding friendship and roots shared between Mexico and the USA. Appropriately entitled, "The Torch of Friendship (La Antorcha de la Amistad)," the steel sculpture is painted "Sebastian Red" and stands 65' tall in the circle of Convention Plaza, where Alamo, Losoya and Commerce streets intersect. The site placement was selected to provide the best space available in which a large numbers of people could view the work from all angles while walking or driving.

The Torch of Friendship is a noteworthy addition to the City of San Antonio's public art collection and will contribute to the varied cultural aesthetics present in the downtown area, such as historic landmarks, the River Walk, and the renovated Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center. It stands as a major step for the City in its efforts to unite historically significant spaces with contemporary creative environments. The resulting union makes for stimulating spaces that lead to economic growth and increased visitors and business investment.

A soft dedication was held in the morning of June 27, followed by a lighting ceremony the same evening with a performance by local dance troupe Urban 15. Pedestrians and motorists alike admire the contemporary addition to the plaza and marvel over the artwork's dimensionality. Although some initial controversy over its placement in Convention Plaza stirred debate, the placement steadily gained acceptance after numerous presentations, artist's lectures, news articles, and general enthusiasm resulting from the spectacle of the monumental installation.

Through San Antonio projects of this scale and character, people who visit, work, and reside downtown can share the experience and appreciation of bold modern works of art in public spaces that have become vital components to urban development in cities across the USA and throughout the world.



**PLEASE REMEMBER,**  
**TO SEND IN THIS ISSUES**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
**QUESTIONNAIRE**

### 1 Project News

**Torch of Friendship:**  
*Sculpture gives historic plaza  
a new look*

### 2 Project News

**CowParade:** *Art laden Cows  
may change idea of Texas  
"Cow Town"*

### 3 Project Update

**NE Service Center:** *Artist uses  
tools to fabricate tools, that  
aren't tools*

### 4 Resources

**Calendar**  
**Project News:** *Mystic Park  
Library notice*

## Program Update

# CowParade “mooves” into San Antonio

A new, but well known event can be put on the 2002 calendar for San Antonio, and any royalty found in this parade may encourage some “moos”. Following in the hoofsteps of major US cities, San Antonio is hosting their own CowParade event. And, what could be a more appropriate venue to show off cows than in South Texas. Amateur and seasoned artists alike will apply for a chance to paint, decorate and retrofit the unique bovine creations, which are actually fiberglass molded life-size 100lb cows. In past cow artists have taken clues from pop art, art history, Hollywood, politics and their own personal styles, of course. Starting in November 2002, CowParade San Antonio will be on display in pre-selected locations all around our city, which could include sites at Main Plaza, Mission Trails, San Pedro Park, or the San Antonio International Airport. You can't, or at least wouldn't want to miss seeing even one of our temporary bovine visitors.

To make this possible, individuals and business patrons will sponsor cows. Anyone from an arts lover to a local business or enterprise can subsidize a cow and sponsor an artistic “moo-vement”. The cows start off white, and come in one of three poses: grazing, standing or reclining. After the artist had completed his or her cow, it will be anchored to a 500-lb. base for both security and stability purposes before public viewing. Artists must submit qualifying proposals that meet the CowParade San Antonio guidelines and the number accepted will likely be determined by the success of the cow sponsoring.

The inaugural cow parade was held in Zurich, Switzerland in 1998. But the best-known event debuted in 1999, hosted by the city of Chicago who brought the great idea to the United States and heralded a successful CowParade throughout the summer. Similar bovine exhibits have been held throughout the United States and have inspired many other spin-offs,

such as pigs, mustangs, and even squirrel parades. Cow parades in the hosting cities attract new visitors and have proven to be successful in generating untapped revenue streams for their respective cities. No doubt, that will stand true for CowParade San Antonio.

The auction to follow the closing of CowParade San Antonio will benefit the local chapter of the American Cancer Society. In addition, ten percent of the online auction proceeds will go to the arts in San Antonio.

CowParade San Antonio is presented by CowParade Holdings Corporation and will be hosted locally by Mayor Ed Garza, City Manager Terry Brechtel, The Office of Cultural Affairs, The Office of Economic Development, The City of San Antonio Convention and Visitors Bureau, The Parks & Recreation Department, Public Works Department and the American Cancer Society's San Antonio Office.



Local artist Janis Joplin created Mer-moo for display at the announcement of CowParade San Antonio 2002.



Cows are currently on display at the elevator lobby entrance to the Office of Cultural Affairs, located at 318 W. Houston in downtown's Alameda Theater building.



## Project News

# *Tools are Set for Service Center*



In the spring of 2003, Public Works' Northeast Service Center will be ready for operation. Kinnison and Associates architects have designed a facility that serves the formal and functional needs of the Service Center. Along with the creation of a new building, new way-finding design enhancements are being incorporated into the overall project. Local artist Riley Robinson has been approved for the fabrication of several benches and gateway enhancements.

### PROJECT FACTS

**Project:** Northeast Service Center

**Location:** 4500 Wurzbach Parkway

**Design Start:** 2/11/02

**Construction Start:** 10/01/01

**Architects:** Kinnison & Associates

**Artist:** Riley Robinson

The artist targeted the utility and services that will be provided by the Northeast Service Center. Riley has proposed six outdoor galvanized steel benches and eleven large-scale vertical tools to be placed in the exterior yard of the Center. The bench design is an adaptation of wrenches that are held together by four smaller wrenches. Wrench benches will be placed near the main building (which houses a community accessible meeting room), the maintenance building, and a location under a large pecan tree for visitors and staff seating in key congregating areas. Ranging up to 14' in height, the yard tools will be visible from Wurzbach Parkway and direct motorists to the visitor entrance of the Center.

**Above and Left:** Artist Riley Robinson shows galvanized steel "wrench bench" at his studio located at 1424 South Presa Street, near downtown San Antonio.

**Below:** Riley Robinson and architect Paul Kinnison have produced several drawings that indicate the yard tools that will be seen from Wurzbach Parkway and the Service entrance. The design enhancement is intended to serve as both a way-finding device and identifier for the Northeast Service Center.



- JULY 18 TO AUG. 30  
City of S.A. International Center

"The Spectacle of Tom Foolery  
and Cognitive Discourse"

Artwork by Austin Artists: Faith  
Gay, Andy Coolquitt, Margaret  
McNiel, Virginia Fleck, and Adam  
Thomas.

Opening: July 18, 2002  
Curated by San Antonio's "Voices  
of Art Magazine"

- SEPT. 12 TO NOV. 15  
City of S.A. International Center

"At the intersection of sight and  
sound"

A collaborative exhibit by  
Chicago based artists working in  
photography and sound.

Opening: Sept. 12, 2002  
In coordination with  
FotoSeptiembre 2002

## PROJECT NEWS

### *Mystic Park Project* *Branch Library & Fire Station #49*

Mystic Park Neighborhood near Bandera  
and Guilbeau Streets will soon have a new  
fire station and branch library built in their  
community. The 15,000 square-foot Library  
and 10,000 square-foot Fire station will  
share a common site and are being  
designed and constructed jointly. This  
project has a budget of about 4 million  
dollars, included in this budget are  
allowances for public art and design  
enhancements.

An artist call will be announced in the  
coming weeks to begin the artist selection  
process. The artist will join the project  
design team, working with the architects,  
various city staff, and begin community  
involvement and input through design  
review presentations. For the latest  
announcements, check our website:

[www.sanantonio.gov/publicworks/pubart](http://www.sanantonio.gov/publicworks/pubart)

## *City of San Antonio*

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**Ed Garza**

*City Council:*

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**District 2 – John H. Sanders**  
**District 3 – Toni Moorhouse**  
**District 4 – Enrique Martin**  
**District 5 – David A. Garcia**  
**District 6 – Enrique Barrera**  
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**District 8 – Bonnie Conner**  
**District 9 – Carroll Schubert**  
**District 10 – David Carpenter**

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**Terry M. Brechtel**

*Public Works Director:*

**Thomas G. Wendorf, P.E.**

*City Architect:*

**Tim Palomera**

*Public Art & Design  
Enhancement Program:*

**James M. LeFlore, Coordinator**  
**Teresa Cisneros, Program Mgr.**

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**Design Enhancements** is published by the Department of Public Works' Public Art and Design Enhancement Program, and is distributed to all professionals in the field of design, and community and civic groups to foster collaboration and design enhancements for public spaces that promotes economic development and neighborhood revitalization in San Antonio. To Reach Us: Send questions, comments or ideas to: James LeFlore, **Design Enhancements**, Public Works' City Architect's Office, P.O. Box 839966, San Antonio Texas 78283-3966. Call (210)-207-4433. Fax (210)-207-4418 or email to [jlefllore@sanantonio.gov](mailto:jlefllore@sanantonio.gov) or go online to: [www.sanantonio.gov/publicworks/pubart](http://www.sanantonio.gov/publicworks/pubart)